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ly respectable in its proper subordinate place; it is the excess, not the proper use, which is deserving of reprehension. It is a useful occupation of leisure, and becomes hurtful only, when indulged as a passion, it withdraws us from the proper business and duties of life. Few can, without incurring the blame attached to mispending time, devote a large portion of it to this pursuit, in a world in which the calls of private and public duty are so incessant, and in which so much of real practical utility can be accomplished by perseverance and industry. Young characterizes the follower of a similar pursuit, and speaks thus of the florist.

—"But why proud of this. To fame they soar;  
We grant *they're idle*, if they'll ask no more."

There are pedants in every walk of life. The idle man, who incessantly asks what news, abuses the spirit of curiosity, which, within proper bounds is a laudable propensity: and the politician who neglects his own and his family's concerns, to regulate the affairs of empires, and to declaim against corruption in states, while he himself stands in need of reform, alike misapplies that proper concern and interest, which a considerate man cannot but feel in the public business of the age and nation in which he lives. All these abuses arise from the excess of a principle, which, within proper bounds, conducts to the high and honourable ground of philanthropy, and teaches us "to make all human woe and weal our own." The classical scholar, the botanist, the florist, the politician, are blamable only when they permit the object of their exclusive favourite study, either to swallow up the man wholly, or to induce

an attachment of more importance to their pursuits, to the diverting of them from more immediate duties, and causing them, by a misplaced calculation, to overrate the value of their favourite schemes, or whims, to the depreciation of others equally important in the just estimate of cool and sober reason.

Bacon, in a maxim drawn from a simile borrowed from mechanics, illustrates the advantages to be derived from instruction. "Knowledge is power." But wisdom is necessary to direct, in the application of the pulleys, and the complicated machinery, by which powers are gained, far beyond the conception of the uneducated man. Knowledge is the mere machine, communicating the capabilities, with which wisdom is able to accomplish the most salutary purposes; but without the informing mind, it is only like the inert mass, which, although capable of being brought into action, has no power till the machinery is properly applied. Knowledge in the abstract, is good for nothing, and is only worth possessing so far as it leads to beneficial results. Thus, the possessor of knowledge, often answers the character which Pope gave of Young, "A great genius without common sense." A man may have "much learned lumber" in his head, which lies useless, like the neglected parts of the steam-engine. These, being put together and distributed in their proper places, with every wheel in its appropriate situation, produces a whole, capable of very extensive effects. So, education supplies the wheels, but superior intelligence, the result of much experience and reflection, contributes to regulate the whole, and men, instead of being pedants, attaching undue importance to one

branch, learn to proceed in the circle of science, in which no part is top-heavy, but the rotatory motion is preserved throughout the entire machine. Thus, by a happy union of wisdom, acting on the materials furnished by knowledge, a harmony is obtained, which cannot be found either in the uneducated man of naturally strong powers, or in the man of variously acquired knowledge, if the principles of that species of wisdom, called common sense, which supply the power of properly combining, are wanting. Learning, so directed and regulated, is far from obstructing the pursuits of the proper business of life, be they commerce, manufacture, or agriculture. It enlarges the capabilities of the mind, and increases the powers to give additional energy to whatever line duty or inclination calls us to engage in. It is only necessary to guard against being too much led off to the subordinate parts, and to take care that what is the most necessary should be done first, and that the useful should have the precedence before the merely ornamental or amusing. If the wise maxim, of keeping every thing in its proper place, is strictly observed, so as to be confirmed into a habit in the youthful mind, parents need not fear, that their sons "will pen a stanza, when they should engross," or read in other books, when the ledger demands their present attention; and young men may bear with calm indifference and equanimity, the taunts of their indolent or dissipated companions, who, themselves, "too weak to bear the unsupportable fatigue of thought," or of serious improvement, try to cover their own defects, by laughing at modest merit; and by putting it out of countenance, attempt to destroy that virtue they are un-

willing to take the pains to imitate.

Ingenious youths, who employ their leisure hours in a course of instructing themselves, by the acquisition of suitable knowledge, will reap most highly important advantages. They not only will be secure against many allurements, which draw aside the idle and careless, and have a source of pleasure within themselves, securing from the intrusions of ennui; but they will be better fitted to succeed in life, by having their minds braced to study, and trained to the exertions of their energy, in the paths to which duty, in the future periods of life, may call. Instead of looking back in advancing years with regret to the early part of life employed in study, they will long reap the solid advantages resulting from it, and find a good habit, formed in youth, continues to reflect a lustre on their advancing, or declining years; and the studious youth will gradually be formed into the ripened man. The young mind, having early received the proper impetus, will continue with increased force, in the right direction, through the successive periods of life. Contrasted with this honourable, fully occupied employment of time, let us view the idle youth, listless and dissipated, for want of something to fill up his vacant time, and then we may perceive the advantages, even as far as a capability for business is concerned, which the studious youth has over his indolent and unlettered companions. Who then, will sing the praises of ignorance, or assert that learning, properly applied, unfits for business?

Another argument in favour of acquiring knowledge, arises from the important advantages to be derived from mathematics, mechanics,

and chemistry, being useful in their application to the arts, with which manufactures and agriculture are so intimately connected. This species of knowledge is not only good in its direct application, but also in its beneficial, indirect influence on the minds of those who can draw amusement and instruction from the increase of useful knowledge. The well instructed young man will not only be more useful, and more secure from harm, but will enjoy a sense of innocent pleasure, of which the ignorant know not how to appreciate the advantages. Instead of roving from home, idly to look for tumultuous pleasures, he will be fond of the domestic circle, and those calm delights which are best enjoyed in the sequestered vale of life, and of which a taste for literary pursuits heightens the enjoyment.

K.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

DIALOGUE BETWEEN NED AND PAT.

**PAT.** Good morrow, Ned; where now?

**Ned.** I am going to the book-sellers to buy the Magazine, that I may know the names of the rascals who signed the Popish Petition.

**Pat.** I have seen that publication, and viewed a list of the names affixed to the Protestant Petition, in favour of Catholic Emancipation, and think they are the most respectable I know.

**Ned.** All disaffected men.

**Pat.** Their wishing well to their neighbours is no proof of that; we are enjoined to "love our neighbours as ourselves."

**Ned.** Yes, that is a good old saying, and might have done well enough long ago, among the Apostles, where there were no Papists, but now they

are so numerous, that to give them power would be dangerous; it is best to keep them down. They make good soles, but bad-uppers!!

**Pat.** I thought the author of all good did not create his creatures with a view that one part should oppress the other. Would not this be charging the Deity with partiality and injustice?

**Ned.** But they have been murderers from the beginning, and my good neighbour G— who is an orangeman, and reads his bible, says that murderers should not live.

**Pat.** You were wrong informed, "Vengeance is mine, and I'll repay it, saith the Lord."

**Ned.** Then I see you on the turn to become Papist too.

**Pat.** No, but the way is wide enough for us all; hearts may agree, though heads differ

**Ned.** It is in vain to warn you of your danger. I say again, none but designing villains would put their names to that paper.

**Pat.** I pity your narrow minded prejudices; were you admitted to the presence of the liberal, enlightened advocates for Catholic Emancipation, who are to be found in every sphere of life from the Duke of Sussex to the peasant, you would shrink as it were, into nothing. Are we not all the children of Adam; and of course brethren, and if we "love not our brother whom we see every day, how can we love him whom we have not seen." *If we do not*, it is an evidence that the love of the father is not in us."

M.

*Ballymena.*

*(To be Continued.)*

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

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*The following reply was distributed by the author to some of his literary friends, and a copy having been*